United Nations S/2015/658

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 August 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 21 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on 21 August 2015 and state the positions of the DPRK with regard to the latest development of a grave situation on the Korean Peninsula (see annexes).

First, with a reference to a letter dated 18 August 2015 from the south Korean permanent representative addressed to you (S/2015/642), the so-called "landmine incident" that took place on the southern side of the demilitarized zone on the Korean Peninsula on 4 August 2015 is the one totally fabricated by south Korea, which has nothing to do with the DPRK.

The Policy Department of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea clarified in a statement on 14 August 2015 that this landmine incident fabricated by south Korea is none other than a conspiracy with the purpose of blaming the DPRK for escalation of tension on the Korean Peninsula (see annexes).

Second, south Korea's resumed psychological warfare broadcasting against the DPRK, under the pretext of the landmine incident, constitutes a clear violation of the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement and existing agreements between the North and the South to stop any psychological warfare campaigns against each other. In a word, south Korea's psychological warfare broadcasting is an open act of war against the DPRK.

Since the North and the South are technically at war, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has every right to take necessary self-defensive measures in order to respond to unilateral provocations of war made by south Korea.

Third, south Korea has committed a gravest act of war by firing dozens of shells on the territory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the pretext of non-existent "shelling" from the DPRK, thus bringing the situation on the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war.

On 20 August 2015, south Korea violently fired 36 shells on the territory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea soon after they alleged that one bullet or shell from the DPRK had landed on the side of south Korea.

Please recycle

To be clear, the DPRK has never fired any bullet or shell on south Korea. This so-called "shelling" from the DPRK is totally fabricated by south Korea, which is clearly elaborated in an urgent report dated 20 August 2015 released by the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army (see annexes).

All the above-mentioned facts clearly show that south Korea and the United States are acting according to their playbook of war scenario by way of fabricating a landmine incident and a shelling from the DPRK and resuming psychological warfare campaigns against the DPRK, in order to provoke a second Korean war during the nuclear pre-emptive joint military exercise of the Ulji Freedom Guardian.

Under the prevailing grave circumstances, an emergency enlarged meeting of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea was convened on 20 August 2015, which issued an order of the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army that front-line combined units of the Korean People's Army should enter a wartime state to be fully battle ready to launch a strong military action unless south Korea stops psychological warfare campaigns and removes its means within 48 hours from 1700 hours on 20 August 2015.

In the light of the brink-of-war situation on the Korean Peninsula created by intentional provocations made by the United States and south Korea, which constitute a serious threat to international peace and security, I strongly request that the issues of south Korea's shelling on the DPRK and psychological warfare campaigns and of the U.S.-south Korea joint military exercises (see S/2015/650) be placed on the Security Council agenda and that a meeting of the Security Council be urgently held in accordance with Articles 34 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I also have the honour to request that, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, a representative of the DPRK be allowed to participate in the meeting and to make a statement.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will spare no efforts in order to defend its sovereignty, territory and people and ensure peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and beyond.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the letter dated 21 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement issued on 14 August 2015 by the Policy Department of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Pyongyang, 14 August — "Mine explosion" of an unknown cause occurred in the vicinity of the south Korean puppet MP post in the southern portion of the demilitarized zone of the Military Demarcation Line in the area of Pangmok-ri, Kunnae-myon, Phaju City, Kyonggi Province on 4 August 2015.

The puppet forces announced right after the occurrence that plastic anti-personnel mine M-14, which was laid in the vicinity of the MP post in the southern portion of the demilitarized zone, went off due to strong torrential rain.

On 10 August, Kim Min Sok appeared at a press conference as a spokesman for the puppet Defence Ministry and asserted that the mine explosion occurred as the "north illegally crossed the Military Demarcation Line and deliberately laid wooden box mine".

The Policy Department of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK issued a statement on Friday, 14 August 2015, as regards the fact that the south Korean puppet military, the puppet joint chiefs of staff and Chongwadae talked volumes about the mine explosion, labelling it "provocation from the north" and even the United Nations joined in the smear campaign against the DPRK.

The statement proved the hypocrisy of their absurd claim that parts of a wooden box mine produced by the puppet forces as "convincing evidence strongly smells of resin" and the "wooden box mine is from the north" and three "fresh springs are also from it".

There are too many instances to give the lie to the "provocation from the north" touted by the puppet forces, the statement said, and went on.

It is a bad habit of the south Korean puppet forces to groundlessly link whatever deplorable event occurs in south Korea with the north.

They seek a sinister aim whenever they orchestrate a ridiculous farce.

The recent case clearly proved that the Park Geun Hye group has made desperate efforts to pass the buck for the strained north-south relations to the DPRK and secure a pretext for justifying such moves to escalate the confrontation with the compatriots as an anti-DPRK leaflet scattering operation.

This was clearly evidenced by the fact that they resumed psychological warfare broadcasting to brand the recent case "as provocation from the north".

Taking advantage of the recent case, the puppet minister of Defence asked his American master to heighten the intensity of Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercises by introducing B-2 aircraft and F-22 aircraft to south Korea.

Aware of the curse and resentment of all compatriots at the projected saber-rattling targeting the north, the puppet forces are hyping "provocation" and "threat" from the north in a bid to justify the war exercises detrimental to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

Their much ado about provocation from the north is nothing but a last resort to calm down the strong criticism of the recent "mine explosion" in the demilitarized zone in the wake of war phobia, declining military discipline and various scandals rampant in the puppet army.

The puppet forces were so ridiculous as to woo the delegate of the DPRK into dialogue under the pretext of discussing the recent shocking case after faking it up.

Hateful was the behaviour of the U.S. joining in the above-said burlesque.

The DPRK has an inspection group of the National Defence Commission that guarantees impartiality and accuracy in making a military, scientific and technological investigation into the case.

The more loudly the Park Geun Hye group talks about provocation from the north, a fiction, the bitterer disgrace of being tricksters and liars it will face.

The army and people of the DPRK are watching with vigilance the provokers' ever more reckless confrontation row.

A reckless provocation is bound to invite a due punishment.

Annex II to the letter dated 21 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Urgent report dated 20 August 2015 released by the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army

Pyongyang, 20 August — The Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army issued the following urgent report on Thursday, 20 August 2015:

War maniacs of the south Korean puppet military made another grave provocation to the DPRK in the central western sector of the front on Thursday afternoon.

They perpetrated such reckless action as firing 36 shells at Korean People's Army civil police posts under the absurd pretext that the Korean People's Army fired one shell at the south side. Six shells of theirs hit the area near Korean People's Army civil police posts 542 and 543 and another 15 shells fell near Korean People's Army civil police posts 250 and 251.

There were no victims of the shelling provocation.

However, this reckless shelling on DPRK military posts, its inviolable territory, is a serious military provocation that can never be pardoned.

The gravity of the situation is that the south Korean puppet military didn't hesitate to make such provocation, though it has not yet confirmed where a shell allegedly fired by the Korean People's Army came from and where it fell in its side, unaware of whether it was an anti-aircraft gun shell or a bullet or a rocket or not.

Not long ago, the puppet war maniacs resumed the broadcasting for psychological warfare in all sectors of the front under the pretext of a doubtful mine explosion case. Today, they fired shells en masse towards the territory of the DPRK without scientific grounds. All of them are prompted by the insanity of the south Korean military war maniacs for provocation.

In view of the prevailing crucial situation, an emergency enlarged meeting of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea will be convened on Thursday night.

We are now sharply following the south Korean puppet Defence Ministry's attitude towards the ultimatum of the Korean People's Army General Staff, which declared that a strong military action would be launched unless they stop the broadcasting for anti-DPRK psychological warfare and dismantle all means of psychological warfare within 48 hours.

Foolhardy provocation deserves harsh punishment.

The south Korean military war maniacs should behave with discretion, well aware of the retaliatory spirit running high among the angry servicepersons of the Korean People's Army front-line combined units.

Annex III to the letter dated 21 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Emergency enlarged meeting of Workers' Party of Korea Central Military Commission convened

The situation of the country is now inching close to the brink of a war due to the continued anti-DPRK political and military provocations by the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet forces.

The broadcasting for anti-DPRK psychological warfare, resumed by the south Korean puppet military gangsters in all sectors of the front under the pretext of the doubtful "mine explosion" case, which occurred in the demilitarized zone of the western sector of the front on 4 August, is still going on day and night. And the leaflet-scattering operation against the DPRK, kicked off with mobilization of die-hard reactionary organizations, has gone beyond a tolerance limit.

Psychological warfare against the DPRK is, in essence, an open act of war against it.

In this regard, on 20 August the General Staff of the Korean People's Army sent an ultimatum to the south Korean puppet Ministry of Defence that a strong military action would be launched at once unless it stopped the anti-DPRK broadcasting for psychological warfare and removed all psy-war means within 48 hours.

Nevertheless, the south Korean puppet military gangsters getting frantic in provoking the DPRK again invented a case of "shell fired by the north" on the afternoon of 20 August, Juche 104 (2015) and, under that pretext, fired dozens of shells on DPRK's inviolable territory, a reckless military action.

Such reckless political and military provocations on the part of the south Korean puppet military gangsters are driving the country to a war crisis.

Under the prevailing grave situation, an emergency enlarged meeting of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea was convened on the night of 20 August.

The meeting was presided over by Comrade Kim Jong Un, first secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Military Commission, first chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

There were members present of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Military Commission, operations commanding officers of the Korean People's Army General Staff, commanders of the Korean People's Army front-line large combined units, senior officials of the State security and people's security organs, leading officials of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee and officials in charge of external affairs.

The meeting heard a report of the General Reconnaissance Bureau of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army on how the enemies committed the military provocation in the central western sectors of the front on the afternoon of

Thursday, its truth and their general movements. It examined the preparations for launching operations of the front-line large combined units of the Korean People's Army as of 2300 on Thursday and discussed a plan for the political and military counteractions to foil the enemies' moves for war. The meeting also examined and ratified the offensive operation plan of the Korean People's Army Front Command to launch a retaliatory strike and counter-attack on the whole length of the front all at once under an unavoidable situation.

The Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea approved the decision of the Korean People's Army General Staff in which it sent to the south Korean puppet Ministry of Defence an ultimatum at 1700 on Thursday that the Korean People's Army would launch a strong military action unless it stopped psychological broadcasting towards the north and dismantled all means for psychological warfare within 48 hours.

At the emergency enlarged meeting of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, Comrade Kim Jong Un issued an order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army that the front-line large combined units of the Korean People's Army should enter a wartime state to be fully battle ready to launch surprise operations and the area along the front be put in a semi-war state from 1700 on Friday.

Commanders were appointed and dispatched to the relevant sectors of the front to command military actions in the areas to destroy means for psychological warfare unless the enemies stopped the psychological broadcasting within 48 hours and put down their possible counteractions.

The meeting discussed the measures to convert the party and power bodies, working people's organizations, State security, people's security and judicial and prosecution organs, factories, enterprises, cooperative farms and other units in the relevant areas into the semi-war system as the semi-war state has been declared in the area along the front.

It also set forth the duties and tasks of officials in charge of external affairs to fully lay bare the truth about the prevailing situation caused by the enemies' undisguised and surprise aggression.

Annex IV to the letter dated 21 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on 21 August 2015

Pyongyang, 21 August — As already reported, the south Korean puppet forces perpetrated again such grave military provocation as firing dozens of shells into the area of the DPRK side in the area along the Military Demarcation Line on Thursday.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK said in a statement on Friday, 21 August 2015 in this connection.

The south Korean puppet forces claimed before any others that they made a retaliatory firing because the DPRK side fired one shell first, but this was a completely sheer lie and fabrication.

On Thursday, the DPRK side clarified that it did not fire even a single bullet or single shell at the enemy's side first nor any accidental firing.

The recent shelling incident unilaterally committed by the south Korean puppet forces was neither incidental nor an accident, but a carefully calculated provocation committed by themselves.

It is a trite method of the successive south Korean rulers to cook up a shocking incident in the area along the Military Demarcation Line whenever they face a crisis in a bid to divert the attention of the public at home and abroad elsewhere and seek a way out of it.

The recent incident was an undisguised provocation aimed to tide over their crisis, get a breathing spell and strain the situation on the Korean Peninsula to an extreme pitch of tension and thus spoil the other's festival.

The enemy cooked up the "mine explosion" case in an area along the Military Demarcation Line and resumed broadcasting for psychological warfare against the north under that pretext in a bid to rattle its nerve to the worst extent, while staging large-scale joint military exercises together with the U.S. By escalating the tension this way, they carried out the artillery firing after creating a psychological situation to make the international community think that the DPRK side might fire one shell first, and are now insisting it was "firing in retaliation" against the former's shelling.

However, the enemy were seriously mistaken this time.

They tried to divert elsewhere the attention of the world's people through the shelling, becoming unable to escape the fate of perishing in the flames kindled by themselves.

The General Staff of the Korean People's Army sent an ultimatum to the south Korean puppet Ministry of Defence at 1700, Pyongyang time, on 20 August that a strong military action would be launched unless it stopped the anti-DPRK broadcasting for psychological warfare and dismantled all psy-war means within 48 hours.

The Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea examined and ratified the offensive operation plan of the Korean People's Army Front Command to launch a retaliatory strike and counter-attack on the whole length of the front all at once. It also approved the decision of the Korean People's Army General Staff in which it sent an ultimatum to the south Korean puppet Ministry of Defence.

Supreme leader Kim Jong Un issued an order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army that the front-line large combined units of the Korean People's Army should enter a wartime state to be fully battle ready to launch surprise operations and the area along the front be put in a semi-war state from 1700 on Friday.

The situation, which has reached the brink of war, is now hardly controllable.

We have exercised our self-restraint for decades.

Now no one's talk about self-restraint is helpful to putting the situation under control.

The army and people of the DPRK are poised not to just counteract or make any retaliation but not to rule out an all-out war to protect the social system, their own choice, at the risk of their lives.

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Security Council

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21 August 2015

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Identical letters dated 21 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On Thursday, in the late afternoon, four rockets were fired from Syrian territory and struck the northern Galilee and the Golan Heights in Israel. This was an indiscriminate and premeditated terrorist attack against Israeli territory without any provocation from the Israeli side. It is important to emphasize that the launching of these rockets is not a spillover from the ongoing war in Syria, but a deliberate attack on Israel.

We have credible information that the attack was carried out by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad organization and was facilitated and directed by an Iranian operative, Saeed Izaadhi, who heads the Palestinian unit in the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Quds Force. This is another clear and blatant demonstration of Iran's continued and unabated support for and involvement in terrorist attacks against Israel and in the region in general.

These attacks are in blatant violation of the 1974 separation of forces agreement. The Government of Israel holds Syria responsible for this and all other attacks emanating from its territory and holds Iran responsible for orchestrating this attack.

The ink has not yet dried on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear agreement and Iran has already provided a clear indication that it will continue to act to destabilize the region. These acts are in complete violation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other mandatory Council resolutions. They offer a clear indication that Iran cannot be trusted to meet its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and Council resolution 2231 (2015) that endorsed the plan of action.

I call upon the Security Council to publicly condemn these attacks, to hold Syria responsible and to denounce Iran for its active and direct role in perpetrating acts of terror throughout the region. Just as this attack is not business as usual, your response to it cannot be the usual call for both sides to show restraint. This deliberate and unprovoked attack is the act of one side and one side only.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-14245 (E) 250815

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United Nations S/2015/660

Security Council

Distr. General
24 August 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 20 August 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter to the President of the Security Council of 26 June 2015 (S/2015/494) and my report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus of 2 July 2015 (S/2015/517), I have the honour to write to you on the subject of confidence-building measures and the supporting role played by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), both of which the Security Council welcomed in its resolution 2234 (2015).

As you are aware, on 28 May 2015, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders announced further confidence-building measures that would bring the two communities closer together, including the opening of additional crossing points, beginning at Lefka-Aplici/Lefke-Aplıç and Deryneia/Derynia. The Security Council, in its deliberations of 22 July 2015, strongly welcomed that initiative.

Actively seeking to support those agreements, the United Nations Mine Action Service, facilitated by UNFICYP, has conducted risk assessments around the proposed crossing points in the buffer zone. To move forward with regard to the two crossings and ensure the safety of Cypriots, as well as the UNFICYP personnel who will patrol and monitor the area, mine clearance will be required in those areas, north of the Turkish forces ceasefire line.

Pursuant to my above-mentioned letter to the President of the Security Council and his letter of reply of 30 June 2015 (S/2015/495), a demining team is currently deployed from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to UNFICYP under the framework of inter-mission cooperation to clear a hazardous area within the buffer zone, where heavy rains washed down mines from a Turkish forces minefield. To date, nearly two thirds of the area has been cleared.

Mindful of the importance of an early realization of the agreement by the leaders in lending further momentum to the settlement talks, I should be grateful for the concurrence of the Security Council for the UNIFIL demining team to remain in Cyprus under the current arrangement until December 2015 to complete the current undertaking and the proposed clearance at the above-mentioned crossings.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

15-14322 (E) 250815

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United Nations S/2015/661

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 August 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 24 August 2015 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 20 August 2015 (S/2015/660) concerning your request for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon demining team to remain in Cyprus under the current arrangement until December 2015 has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the information contained in your letter and the request expressed therein.

(*Signed*) U. Joy **Ogwu**
President of the Security Council

15-14323 (E) 250815

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United Nations S/2015/662

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 August 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 25 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the unlawful and inhuman decision of the Russian authorities to sentence Ukrainian citizens Oleg Sentsov and Oleksandr Kolchenko (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-14403 (E) 260815

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 25 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine urges the Russian Federation to immediately release Oleg Sentsov and Oleksandr Kolchenko

25 August 2015

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its resolute protest over the unlawful and inhuman decision of the Russian authorities to sentence Ukrainian citizens Oleg Sentsov and Oleksandr Kolchenko, who were illegally arrested by Russian occupants in May 2014 and accused of terrorist activities, to 20 and 10 years in prison, respectively.

Oleg Sentsov, Oleksandr Kolchenko and other citizens of Ukraine, who are illegally detained in the Russian Federation, are political prisoners and innocent victims of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

The unlawful court decision, which is based on falsified investigation results that had been obtained, in particular, as a result of psychological pressure and torture against the Ukrainian citizens, became a final confirmation that the judicial system of the Russian Federation is politically biased. The court, while fulfilling the Kremlin's political order, completely neglected the law and, in particular, ignored evidence of the innocence of the Ukrainian citizens provided by their lawyers. This verdict shows the departure of the Russian Federation from the principle of impartiality of the investigation as well as from universal norms in the field of human rights.

We urge the Russian side to stop the judicial farce which mutilates human destinies for the sake of ambitions of the Russian leadership, and immediately release Oleg Sentsov and Oleksandr Kolchenko as well as other political prisoners.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls upon the international community to condemn this cynical crime against fundamental human rights and enhance political and diplomatic pressure on the Russian Federation to ensure that all citizens of Ukraine who are still illegally detained in the Russian territory are released.

The Ukrainian side will apply every effort to set free our compatriots who are political prisoners in Russia.

United Nations S/2015/663

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 August 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 25 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from Najib Ghadbian, representative of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, dated 25 August 2015 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Al-Mouallimi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-14393 (E) 310815

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Annex to the letter dated 25 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, it is with grave concern that I draw your attention to the rising death toll in Syria and the wanton destruction of civilian life by Assad's forces, in advance of the Under-Secretary-General's briefing to the Security Council on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria and the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014).

August was another deadly month in the Syrian crisis. As of 24 August, an estimated 826 civilians had been killed, more than half of them by Assad's indiscriminate aerial weapons, including barrel bombs. In Douma, Zabadani, Aleppo and Idlib, the Syrian regime's aerial attacks on civilians, medical facilities and schools continued with increasing devastation (see enclosure). The situation was particularly horrific in civilian-occupied areas northeast of Damascus, where Assad's forces engaged in a calculated campaign to eradicate opposition-strongholds in and around the capital. On 16 August, Syrian regime air raids pounded the heavily populated marketplace of Douma, a suburb of Damascus, resulting in over 111 civilian deaths in what is one of the bloodiest atrocities committed by the regime in four years. The scale and barbarity of the attack prompted immediate international condemnations, including a scathing indictment from the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, who called the regime's attacks on civilians in Douma "devastating" and "unacceptable." Yet just one week later, on 22 August, Assad's aerial forces returned to the besieged city, killing more than 50 civilians. As I write, Syrian rescue workers are in the process of trying to save civilians trapped under the rubble of Assad's destruction.

The attacks on the Damascus suburbs are particularly devastating, coming as they do on the second anniversary of the chemical weapons attacks on Ghouta, when Assad's forces deliberately gassed more than 1,400 people, including more than 400 children, to death. Like the barrel bomb attacks on Douma, the question of responsibility for the chemical attacks on Ghouta remains mired in impunity. No one has been held accountable for the use of chemical weapons. No justice has been served for the children, mothers and fathers who lost their loved ones. No one has suffered consequences for orchestrating, authorizing, or participating in the single worst war crime of the twenty-first century. As a result, war crimes across Syria have continued unabated and the humanitarian situation has shifted from bad to catastrophic.

Since the attacks on Ghouta on 21 August 2013, the death toll in Syria has soared from 110,000 to over 250,000 killed. The number of Syrian refugees has doubled, from 2 to 4 million. The number of Syrians in need has surged, from 6.8 million to more than 12 million people. Extremist forces have proliferated, assuming control of as much 50 per cent of Syrian territory. And the killing has continued through the use of both conventional and chemical means. In the past two years, Assad has used chemical agents as a weapon of war on more than 46 separate occasions, while his forces have killed more than 12,500 civilians with deadly barrel bombs.

Few have suffered more than the roughly 640,000 Syrians living in besieged areas across the country, and the millions of others trapped in hard-to-reach areas. Far too many Syrian civilians continue to be denied aid by a brutal regime that employs the denial of vital humanitarian aid as a weapon of war in a desperate bid to starve its citizens into submission. Nowhere is the situation more dire than in Douma, where nearly 300 urgent surgeries cannot be performed because the Assad regime denies life-saving medical supplies, including antibiotics and anthelmintic drugs needed to treat infections.

The war crimes in Syria must be stopped. The Syrian people need protection. They are dying without it. Before the briefing of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs to the Security Council on Syria on 27 August, I therefore appeal to the Security Council to take the following actions:

1. **Answer Syrians' calls for civilian protection by enforcing a no-fly zone in Syria:** A no-fly zone would save some 200 civilian lives a week. It would stop the leading killer of Syrian civilians: Assad's illegal barrel bombs. If the Security Council will not enforce a no-fly zone, then the Member States must;

2. **Enforce Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014): Enforce the above resolutions** by instructing the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to all Syrians in need, including in Douma, where hundreds of Syrian civilians are in urgent need of medical supplies but are denied access due to a brutal siege overseen by the forces of the Syrian regime;

3. **Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court:** A referral to the International Criminal Court would help provide a path towards justice for the 1,429 Syrians gassed to death by Assad's forces on 21 August, and the 140,000 Syrians killed since. It would also deter future crimes by making clear to all war criminals that their atrocities will be met by clear consequences. If the Security Council will not agree a referral, Member States should establish an alternative mechanism such as a Special Tribunal.

Without exception, Security Council resolutions 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2209 (2015) and 2235 (2015) have gone unenforced. The failure to enforce these resolutions has cost countless lives. The Security Council can and must do better, including by providing the protection my people so desperately need. The failure of Member States to protect Syrian civilians is no longer a question of legality or feasibility. It is a question of will. Inaction is a massive humanitarian betrayal. And it has fuelled a deadly extremist threat that knows no borders. It is time to take the action in Syria, which will save lives, relieve the humanitarian consequences and make progress against extremism.

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
Special Representative to the United Nations

Enclosure

Syrian regime violations of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014)

I. All parties must immediately cease attacks against civilians and the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas

Violation: Syrian regime's indiscriminate use of aerial weapons and barrel bombs

In both July and August 2015, indiscriminate aerial weapons once again proved to be the leading killer of Syrian civilians. In July alone, the Syrian regime deployed some 2,041 barrel bombs to kill more than 368 civilians, including 83 children and 63 women. Barrel bombs formed a major part of the regime's 180 air strikes on Syrian residential areas, which resulted in an estimated 857 deaths in July. As of 25 August, some 902 civilians had been killed by Syrian regime forces, roughly half of whom had died as a result of indiscriminate aerial shelling and barrel bombs. Douma, in the Rif Dimashq governorate, sustained most warplane shelling during the reporting period, with attacks on crowded market places resulting in over 114 deaths and more than 550 injuries between 14 and 17 August.

Table 1
Regime's use of aerial weapons and barrel bombs (July-August 2015)

Date	*Governorate*	*City*	*Nature of attack*	*Casualties*
24 Aug.	Rif Dimashq, Idlib	Douma, Saqba, Hamouria, Kafar Batna, Jesrn, Al Hebet	Aerial bombardment	32 killed
23 Aug.	Rif Dimashq, Damascus, Aleppo, Daraa	Al Hammuriyya, Saqba, Shabaa, Daraa Al Balad, Mare, Sukkari	Warplane shelling	29 killed
22 Aug.	Deir Ezzor, Damascus suburbs, Daraa	Douma, Al Buomar, Lajat	Warplane shelling	28 killed
21 Aug.	Idlib, Damascus, Rif Dimashq	Erbeen, Madaya, Malaab, Adra, Marj, Beit Sawa, Douma	Shelling	20 killed
20 Aug.	Damascus, Daraa, Idlib, Homs, Aleppo	Douma, West Gharriya, Hamouria, Madaya, Kafrauid, Jisreen, Baba Amr	Warplane shelling	25 killed
19 Aug.	Raqqa, Damascus, Daraa, Aleppo, Homs	Harasta, Zabdeen, Jisr Shagour, Maarat Misreen, Daraa Al Balad, Palmyra, Bab, Abbada, Kafr Zeit	Warplane shelling	31 killed

Date	*Governorate*	*City*	*Nature of attack*	*Casualties*
18 Aug.	Damascus, Idlib, Aleppo, Hama	Douma, Mishic, Idlib city, Ein Tarma, Erbeen, Bustan el-Qassr	Shelling	19 killed
16/17 Aug.	Rif Dimashq	Douma	4 air strikes	114 killed, 550 injured
14 Aug.	Rif Dimashq	Zamalka city, Harasta, Mesraba, Douma, Erbeen	Over 15 air strikes	190 killed
13 Aug.	Rif Dimashq	Kafar Batna	1 air strike	5 killed, 14 injured
12 Aug.	Rif Dimashq	Douma Al Hal market, Saqba, Hamouria, Ein Tarma, Kafar Batna	14 air strikes	Over 45 killed, 202 injured
11 Aug.	Homs, Damascus, Deir Ezzor, Aleppo, Idlib	Madaya, Baqqen, Mouadamiyeh, Sbikhan, Tadif, Binnish, Idlib city, Qouriyeh, Palmyra, Bayada, Zafarana	Shelling	27 killed
10 Aug.	Idlib, Deir Ezzor, Damascus, Daraa	Jarjanaz, Maarat Hirmeh, Htaitet Turkman, Shabaa, Mzaireeb, Ariha, Joseph village	Warplane shelling	22 killed
9 Aug.	Daraa, Idlib, Homs, Damascus	Zamreen, Nawa, Naziheen Camp, Ballion, Jobar, Zardna	Warplane shelling	10 killed
8 Aug.	Hama, Idlib	Al Ghab plain, Maart Numan, Bweda, Himania, Rabdeh	Shelling	32 killed
7 Aug.	Idlib, Damascus, Aleppo	Saraqib, Jobas village, Mare, Darat Azza, Moudamiyeh, Kernaz, Ariha	Shelling	24 killed
6 Aug.	Aleppo, Damascus, Homs	Jeroud, Darat Azza, Kuwait, Mouadmiyeh	Shelling	4 killed
5 Aug.	Homs	Telbeiseh	Shelling	1 killed
4 Aug.	Aleppo	Masaken Al Sabeel	Shelling	1 killed
3 Aug.	Idlib, Daraa, Aleppo, Hama	Ariha, Manbej, Daraa Al Balad, Mareian, Hwash, Amkieh		23 killed

Date	*Governorate*	*City*	*Nature of attack*	*Casualties*
31 July	Daraa, Idlib	Al Naema, Al Kark, Tiftinza, Bakeen	Barrel bombs	10 killed
30 July	Daraa, Hama	Tafas, Al Naema, Al Hwayez	Over 6 barrel bombs	8 killed
29 July	Daraa, Hama	Al Msayfera, Al Madeek Fort	Barrel bombs	3 killed
28 July	Homs, Daraa, Hama	Palmyra, Dael, Al-Kamiya, Al Madeek Fort	Barrel bombs	19 killed
27 July	Rif Dimashq, Homs	Douma, Palmyra	Air strikes	20 killed, 40 injured
26 July	Daraa	Al Ghariyi	Barrel bombs	2 killed
23-25 July	Dar'a, Hama, Idlib	Dar'a, Al Ghariya, Tal shehab, Al Kark, Al Hawiez, Knasfara, Idlib city	Barrel bombs and surface-to-surface missiles	82 killed
22 July	Aleppo, Daraa	Kafr Aweed, Rasem Al Abed, Al Bab, Dael	Over 4 barrel bombs	23 killed, 30 injured
21 July	Aleppo, Daraa, Homs	Maghayer, Qasr Al-Breij, Dael, Talbisa	1 surface-to-surface missile, 6 barrel bombs	Over 38 killed
20 July	Aleppo, Daraa	Menbej town, Al Imam, Deir Hafer, Daraa Al Balad	Over 9 barrel bombs	29 killed
19 July	Daraa	Al Hara, Al Rayy, Busra Al Sham	Over 6 barrel bombs	11 killed
18 July	Aleppo, Daraa, Idlib	Al Halak, Al Shouwaylikh, Al Ghariyi, Al Furja	Over 4 barrel bombs	5 killed
17 July	Aleppo, Daraa	Al Bab, Al Hara, Tafas	Over 3 barrel bombs	15 killed, 11 injured
16 July	Idlib, Aleppo, Daraa	Maaret Msreen town, Al Bab, Aran town, Al Zaytan, Al Harak, Al Ghazeyi, Qurm Al Jouz	Over 5 barrel bombs	30 killed, 22 injured
15 July	Aleppo	Al Bab, Darat Ezza	2 barrel bombs, 2 thermal rockets	13 killed, 20 injured

Date	*Governorate*	*City*	*Nature of attack*	*Casualties*
14 July	Damascus, Aleppo, Hama	Yarmouk camp, Al Kabaseen, Al Habeet	Mortar attack, 2 barrel bombs	6 killed
13 July	Aleppo, Daraa, Hama	Al Bab, Al Safeera, Al Sham, Al Fatera	Over 5 barrel bombs	45 killed
12 July	Aleppo, Hama	Al Baza, Al Safeera, Al Tamana	Over 4 barrel bombs	19 killed
11 July	Aleppo	Al Bab	3 barrel bombs	23 killed
10 July	Daraa	Al Hara	2 barrel bombs	7 killed
8 July	Aleppo	Tarik Al Bab, Karm Al Beik	Aerial attack	20 killed
7 July	Aleppo	Al Ma'adi	2 barrel bombs	13 killed
6 July	Hama	Al Tramla	Barrel bombs	1 killed
5 July	Daraa, Hama, Idlib	Al Naema, Saida, Al Latamna, Al Hawash, Al Ariima, Al Fakee, Sfouhen	Over 7 barrel bombs	21 killed
4 July	Damascus	Damascus	Mortar shells	2 killed, 3 injured
3 July	Daraa, Hama	Daraa Al Balad, Al Ramla	4 barrel bombs	2 killed
2 July	Daraa	Tafas	3 barrel bombs	7 killed
1 July	Aleppo, Daraa	Al Bab city, Gharz	2 thermal missiles and barrel bombs	14 killed, 10 injured

Source: Syrian Network for Human Rights and the Violations Documentation Centre in Syria.

Violation: Syrian regime's indiscriminate use of chemical weapons

The Syrian regime continued its indiscriminate use of chemical weapons throughout the reporting period, committing more than seven separate incidents of chlorine gas attacks, in direct violation of Security Council resolutions 2118 (2013) and 2235 (2015). These attacks resulted in nine deaths and dozens of injuries. Reports of the continued use of chlorine gas must be investigated without delay by Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) monitors.

Table 2
Regime's chlorine gas attacks (July-August 2015)

Date	*Governorate*	*City*	*Nature of attack*	*Casualties*
11 Aug	Eastern Ghouta	Erbin	Chlorine gas attack	1 killed, 4 injured
6 Aug	Damascus, Eastern Ghouta	Jobar	Chlorine gas attack	2 killed, 13 suffocated
30 July	Damascus, Eastern Ghouta	Jobar	Chlorine gas attack	1 died, 25 suffocated
27 July	Damascus	Zamalka, Jobar	Over 7 rockets loaded with chlorine	5 intoxicated, 27 asphyxiated
21 July	Damascus suburbs	Harasta	2 bombs loaded with chlorine gas	5 intoxicated
8 July	Deir Al Zour	Al Sheikh Yaseen neighbourhood, Al Hwayka	3 rockets loaded with chlorine gas	5 killed, 23 injured
7 July	Aleppo	Al-Zahra	2 barrel bombs loaded with chlorine gas	27 individuals intoxicated

Source: Syrian Network for Human Rights and the Syrian American Medical Society

II. All parties must immediately lift sieges of populated areas and allow unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid. All parties must promptly allow United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners safe and unhindered access to populations in need

Violation: Syrian regime's sieges

An estimated 640,000 Syrians currently reside in besieged areas and 4.8 million in hard-to-reach areas inside Syria. Out of these, a majority are besieged by the forces of the Syrian regime, many in eastern Ghouta and Darayya, where they suffer from starvation and a lack of medical care. Access to medical supplies and equipment continue to be restricted and their timely delivery is severely hindered by regime-imposed limitations. Tens of thousands of Syrians continued to be deprived of treatment as a consequence of acts of hindrance or confiscation by regime forces.

III. Strongly condemns the arbitrary detention and torture of civilians in Syria, notably in prisons and detention facilities, and demands the immediate end of these practices

Violation: Torture of prisoners by the Syrian regime

Over the past four years, over 11,427 deaths have been documented due to the systematic practice of torture by the Assad regime. Most prisoners die owing to the lack of medical treatment, falling victim to a host of medical problems, including diarrhoea and the loss of fluids, pneumonia, asthma and heart problems, and from minor injuries that become infected due to lack of treatment. In July, 57 torture-

related deaths were documented in Syrian regime prisons, including 20 in Daraa governorate, 13 in Hama, 7 in the Damascus suburbs, 5 in Homs, 5 in Deir Al Zour, 4 in Aleppo, 2 in Raqqa, 1 in Damascus and 1 in Lattakia. Torture-related deaths continued in August. On 19 August, 10 victims were tortured to death. On 24 August, in Der-Ezzor province, a man from Zeban village was tortured to death in regime prisons after having been detained for two years. On 24 August, in Daraa, Habes Falah Al Dowkhi from Sour was tortured to death in a detention centre.

IV. All parties must immediately cease attacks against medical facilities and other civilian objects as well as medical personnel, and prioritize the fullest possible medical attention for those in need. Further demands that all parties demilitarize medical facilities, school and other civilian facilities

Violation: Attacks by the Syrian regime on medical facilities and medical staff (July-August 2015)

Attacks on medical facilities, ambulances and medical personnel continued unabated in July, with the organization Physicians for Human Rights reporting nine attacks on eight medical facilities — all carried out by aircraft of the Syrian regime. The Syrian regime also killed other medical personnel in July.

Table 3
Targeting of medical personnel and facilities by the Syrian regime (July-August 2015)

Date	*Governorate*	*City*	*Facility targeted*	*Nature of attack*	*Casualties/damages*
7-10 Aug.	Idlib	Saraqeb	Attack on 9 hospitals	Aerial bombardment	11 civilians killed, 41 injured (including 7 medics)
28 July	Idlib	Idlib, Kansafra	Idlib Polyclinics, Syrian American Medical Society hospital	Aerial bombardment	2 medics killed, 7 civilians killed
23 July	Daraa	Tal Shehab	Tal Shihab field hospital	Over 5 barrel bombs	3 children injured. Hospital went out of service
19 July	Aleppo	Manbij, Al Sakhour	National hospital	3 thermal rockets	4 injured, severe material damage to the hospitals
17 July	Damascus	Deir Al Asafeer	Medical centre	Rocket attack	Severe material damage
16 July	Aleppo	Jib Al Kibba		3 thermal rockets	10 killed
5 July	Daraa, Idlib	Daraa, Knasfara	Daraa makeshift hospital	Rocket attack	1 killed. Hospital is now out of service
1 July	Idlib, Daraa	Tamana'a	Al Tamana medical point, Saida Hospital	Barrel bombs, gas cylinders	15 killed, 5 injuries including 2 medics killed. Hospital was out of service for 5 days

Source: Physicians for Human Rights and the Syrian Network for Human Rights.